

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 3-12 are pending in this Office Action.
The filed Specification on 5/7/2009 is considered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Robert A. Jensen on 12/30/2008.

In claims: please replace claim 3 with amended claim 3 (marks show changes) as indicated below:

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3. (Currently amended) A method of allowing access to data over a distributed data processing system, the method comprising:

providing an automated infrastructure for exchange of information between multiple self-interested parties;

providing a trusted server with at least one data warehouse for a storage of said information, wherein the trusted server includes a processor;

associating a price rule with particular data records of said information which establishes a cost of accessing said particular data records, and which controls the access to the data;

wherein said price rule enables a data owner associated with the data to specify a different price for different types and amounts of information access;

within said trusted server, providing a data processing platform which is accessible to multiple third-party data processing software programs which operate as software agents;

wherein a plurality of seller-side software agents have defined relationships to said price rules and associated data records, and maintain absolute access control to said associated data records;

wherein a plurality of buyer-side software agents have regulated query access to said data processing platform and request pricing information from said seller-side software agents;

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wherein the plurality of seller-side software agents and the plurality of buyer-side software agents operate as persistent data processing systems which interact with one another repeatedly over time and which thus define a virtual marketplace.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3-12 remain allowed over the prior art made of record.

As to claim 3, none of the available prior art of record fairly suggest “wherein said price rule enables a data owner associated with the data to specify a different price for different types and amounts of information access; within said trusted server, providing a data processing platform which is accessible to multiple third-party data processing software programs which operate as software agents; wherein a plurality of seller-side software agents have defined relationships to price rules and associated data records, and maintain absolute access control to said associated data records; wherein a plurality of buyer-side software agents have regulated query access to said data processing platform and request pricing information from said seller-side software agents; wherein the plurality of seller-side software agents and the plurality of buyer-side software agents operate as persistent data processing systems which interact with one another repeatedly over time and which thus define a virtual marketplace”.

The dependent claims, bring definite, further limiting, and fully enabled by the specification are also allowed.

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam Y T. Truong whose telephone number is (571) 272-4042. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tony Mahmoudi can be reached on (571) 272-4078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Cam Y Truong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2169